



PUBLIC NOTICE

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MEDIA BUREAU ACTION

FIRST QUARTER 2021 INFLATION ADJUSTMENT FIGURES FOR CABLE OPERATORS USING FCC RATE REGULATION FORM 1240 NOW AVAILABLE

This Public Notice is applicable to rate-regulated cable operators that use FCC Forms to justify their cable rates.¹ Cable operators adjusting the non-external cost portion of their rates for inflation should follow the instructions provided with the applicable FCC Form. All inflation adjustment figures are based on changes in the Gross National Product Price Index (GNP-PI) published by the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). The Media Bureau obtained the chain-type price indexes from the BEA news release dated June 24, 2021 (BEA 21-29) at Table 1.7.4 (Price Indexes for Gross Domestic Product, Gross National Product, and Net National Product) Line 4 (Gross National Product).²

Operators filing FCC Form 1240 may make an adjustment based on quarterly figures. The first quarter of 2021 inflation factor for operators using FCC Form 1240 is 4.32%. The adjustment factor of 4.32% is a measure of the annualized change in prices occurring over the period from January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021. The inflation adjustment factor is calculated by dividing the GNP-PI for the first quarter of 2021 (115.590) by the GNP-PI for the fourth quarter of 2020 (114.375). The result of this calculation is converted from a quarterly change measurement factor to an annual change measurement factor by raising it to the fourth power.

Operators calculating the Inflation Factor for a True-Up Period which includes some portion of the first quarter of 2021 should enter the inflation factor on the appropriate lines of Worksheet 1 of FCC Form 1240 as "0.0432." Operators using this factor for calculating the Projected Period Inflation Segment of FCC Form 1240 should enter this number on Line C3 (January 1996 version), or Line C5 (July 1996 version) as "1.0432".

To date, the Commission has released ninety-nine quarterly inflation factors for use with FCC Form 1240. The following table lists these factors beginning in 2017.³

¹ Pursuant to 47 CFR § 76.922(d)(2) and § 76.922(e)(2) of the Commission's rules, cable operators may adjust the non-external cost portion of their rates for inflation.

² Table 1.7.4 can be found at this link:
<https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?reqid=19&step=2#reqid=19&step=2&isuri=1&1921=survey>.

³ For pre-2017 inflation figures *see* DA 17-646, 32 FCC Rcd 5479 (rel. July 5, 2017), available at <https://www.fcc.gov/general/inflation-updates-forms-1210-and-1240>.

Year	Quarter	Dates Covered	Inflation Factor
2017	First	Jan. 1, 2017 – Mar. 31, 2017	1.96%
2017	Second	Apr. 1, 2017 – Jun. 30, 2017	1.01%
2017	Third	Jul. 1, 2017 – Sep. 30, 2017	2.09%
2017	Fourth	Oct. 1, 2017 – Dec. 31, 2017	2.33%
2018	First	Jan. 1, 2018 – Mar. 31, 2018	2.20%
2018	Second	Apr. 1, 2018 – Jun. 30, 2018	3.04%
2018	Third	Jul. 1, 2018 – Sep. 30, 2018	1.81%
2018	Fourth	Oct. 1, 2018 – Dec. 31, 2018	1.68%
2019	First	Jan. 1, 2019 – Mar. 31, 2019	0.90%
2019	Second	Apr. 1, 2019 – Jun. 30, 2019	2.42%
2019	Third	Jul. 1, 2019 – Sep. 30, 2019	1.81%
2019	Fourth	Oct. 1, 2019 – Dec. 31, 2019	1.28%
2020	First	Jan. 1, 2020 – Mar. 31, 2020	1.41%
2020	Second	Apr. 1, 2020 – Jun. 30, 2020	-1.82%
2020	Third	Jul. 1, 2020 – Sep. 30, 2020	3.51%
2020	Fourth	Oct. 1, 2020 – Dec. 31, 2020	2.04%
2021	First	Jan. 1, 2021 – Mar. 31, 2021	4.32%

The Commission releases a new quarterly inflation factor for operators using FCC Form 1240 four times each year. The inflation factor for a given quarter is usually released between three and four months after the end of the quarter, depending on the schedule of the Department of Commerce. The release of a new factor is posted on the Commission's Internet site at: <https://www.fcc.gov/general/inflation-updates-forms-1210-and-1240>.

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